



The Canton Amateur Radio Club

October 1999

# The FEEDLINE

Web Page <http://www.qsl.net/w8al/index.htm> Repeater 146.790

## Urgent Reminder!!!

### Fall Dinner Meeting

By: Josh Robinson KC8GSK

This month Your Club will be holding a dinner meeting

We will have a family style meal of all you can eat Spaghetti, salad, and drink.

All of this is offered for only \$6.75 per person plus tip.

**Date: October 20, 1999**

**Time: 7:00PM**

**Place: Papa Bears on Dressler Rd.**

We will conduct our regular business meeting,

have a presentation, and

recognize Club Members.

**Please make a special effort to attend!!!**

We have 30 RSVPs to date!

The CARC officers and trustees look forward to your attendance!!

73, Josh Robinson KC8GSK

RSVP to KI0DE or KC8GSK at

**478-3831**

**FEEDLINE**

is the monthly news letter of

**The Canton  
Amateur Radio Club**

An affiliate of the  
**American Radio Relay League**

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**CARC Officers**

**President**

Dale Story...KB8LWP

**Vice President**

Roger Gray....W8VE

**Secretary**

Open .....

**Treasurer**

Larry Parrish ... N8UXK

**Trustees**

Paul Burke ..... KB8VAS

Dave Ost ..... W8PTU

Mike Robinson ..... KI0DE

Billy Harper ..... KB8CQG

Edwin Solomon ..... W8ATF Paul

V Pucket ..... KB8GSV

**Deadline:** Articles for the Feedline should in by the **first of each month**. The reason for this is that the Job passes through many hands and it takes time to pass it through the chain. The objective is to have it in the members hands prior to our monthly meeting.



The Canton Amateur Radio Club meets

**the third Wednesday of each month  
at 7:30 pm**

in the Emergency Operating Center on the lower level of the Stark County Sheriff's Complex (Safety Building), Rte 62 East. Please try to attend.

To: Canton Amateur Radio Club

From: Dale Storey - KB8L~'P; President

Re: 1999 Safety Break .....

I want to thank all those that volunteered to work at the Safety Break this year. We had a very profitable year and thanks to all your effort, we were able to put this on.

First of all, I want to thank the "set-up" and "tear-down" committees. Your extreme organization and thorough planning was key to this event being successful!! Because of their already overbooked schedule this group will remain "anonymous" so as not to cause a stampede for requests.

Many thanks go out to all the people that worked shifts round the clock.

Billy and Virginia Harper - KB8CQG; Roger Gray - W8VE; Dave Ost - W8PTU; Mike Diacontonas - KC8LTC (Double shift); Paul Burke - KB8VAS (Triple shift); Cathy Storey - KC8EUC (Double shift); Larry Parrish - N8UXK (Double shift);

Bill Wade - KC8FLT; Sandy Shrigley - KB8FZX; Sarah Shrigley - KC8ACW; Ed Solomon - W8ATF; Mary Soloman - KC8AXO; Gary Lewis-W8SSB; Patty Lewis - N8YDF; Jullus Erdos - KD8XD; Mike Rich

A special thanks also goes out to those who baked cookies. They went over really well!!

KBSFZX - Sandy; KC8ACW - Sarah; "Mrs~' K8NIB (Denny);

"Mrs" N8UXK (Larry); KCSAXO - Mary; N8YDF - Patty. Thnks to Roger, Sandy and Paul for their extra efforts with supplies. set-up/tear down, reservations of trailer; donuts; pop. For being flexible to get the job done. Also, to Ruby and Sally for the go-fering - thanks!!

73's Dale Storey - KB8L~'P; President



## H F Tribander Antenna Performance Comparisons

by Roger Gray, VP W8VE

At the 1998 Dayton Hamvention, I attended an Antenna Forum given by Ward Silver, N0AX and Steve Morris, K7LXC. Ward and Steve decided that with all the manufactures claims about antenna performance, it is very hard to compare antennas. Some manufactures give antenna's gain in DBi (gain compared to an isotropic source), some in dBd; some give gain figures compared to a "free space" dipole.

So in 1996, they decided to perform "real life" tests on triband antennas and see actual gain, front to back ratios etc. Over 4 weekends, they raised antennas on a 50 foot tower and compared them to reference dipoles. Since I was in the market for a tribander, I obtained the report. Here is a summary of their report:

### Antennas Tested

#### Small Category

Force 12 C3; new computer designed trapless (18' boom)  
Mosley TA-33; classic trap design in 1960's (14' boom)  
Gem Quad; classic 2 element quad design (8' boom)

#### Large Category

KLM KT34XA; linear loaded design (32' boom)  
Mosley Pro 77; trap design (also covers 12,17,30,40) (24' boom)  
Bencher Skyhawk; new computer designed trapless (24' boom)  
Hy-Gain TH-7DX; 70's design trap (24' boom)  
Hy-Gain TH-11; log-cell driven element, trapped directors (24' boom)

### It is very hard to compare antennas

They raised 3 dipoles (10, 15, 20 meters) at 50 feet and used as a reference dipole and compared the above antennas for Standing Wave Ratio (SWR) Bandwidth, Forward Gain 3 dB bandwidth, Front to Back Ratio with reference dipoles. Here are some the results of the tests.

**Results: Big Overachiever Force 12 C-3** Excellent performance with small boom length. The Force 12 is a staggered 2 element design, it doesn't have the front to back ratios of the larger antennas but had best gain figures on 15 and 20 meters of all the antenna tested.

**Loudest Bencher Skyhawk** (although there was only a difference of 1dB in forward gain of the top antennas)

Forward gains averaged from 1.2 dB (Mosley TA-33) to 3.3 dB (Force 12) on 20 meters. On 15 meters, the gain measured 2.5 dB (Mosley TA-33) to 4.3 dB gain (Force 12). On 10 meters, the lowest gain was 1.3 dB (Mosley TA-33) to highest gain of 5.5 dB (Skyhawk Bencher).

**Best Front to Back Ratio Th-7 and Th-11** The front to back ratios of the two Hy-Gain antennas averaged from 9.6 dB to 14.4 dB on all three bands. The worst performer in this category was the 2 element Gem quad. Long booms and more elements improve front to back ratios.

**Most Consistent Performance over all 3 bands Bencher Skyhawk and Hy-Gain TH-11.** The Bencher is a new computer designed although the Hy-Gain gave excellent result considering it was an older design. Both were consistent on average gain and front to back ratios.

**Observations:** Mosley, Hy-Gain, KLM, and Gem Quad advertised their forward gain from 6 to 10 dB, yet the test result showed gains were from 1.2 to 5.5 dB. On the other hand, two excellent performers, Force 12 and Bencher gave realistic gain specs.

Continued on p. 4

**--- Antenna Performance Comparisons.** Cont from p.1

Force 12 specifies its gain at 4.2 to 4.5 dB which is the lowest advertised gain all antennas except Bencher does give gain specify its gain.

If you consider 5-6 dB for 1 S unit, there is not much difference in forward gain of the antennas. Although in a "pile up", 1 S-unit can be the difference of getting that new country in the log or not.

If you have one of the older trap design antennas, they are good performers and it isn't worth the money to replace them. On the other hand, if you're in the market for an antenna, Force 12 and Bencher antennas have a lot going for them due to computer simulation programs. Both have open sleeve design and no traps and are light weight with minimal wind resistance.

This is just a summary of the 60 page report which gives charts on gain, SWR, Front-to Back for all the antennas on all three bands. It is available from Champion Radio Products phone # 888-833-3104 or [www.championradio.com](http://www.championradio.com).

By the way, I purchased a C4S from Force 12. It only weighs 40 lb. has a 12 foot boom with 7 elements. It has the same performance figures as the C3 with the 18 foot boom. I also purchased the 40 meter ratable dipole which mounts on the same boom. I plan to have it up this fall before the CQ World Wide DX contests and Sweepstakes! I

will let you know how it works on the air!

73's Roger Gray, VP,  
W8VE

**"Drinking"**

Late one Friday night the policeman spotted a man driving very erratically through the streets of Dublin. They pulled the man over and asked him if he had been drinking that evening.

"Aye, so I have. 'Tis Friday, you know, some and the lads stopped by the pub where I had six or seven pints. And then there was something called "Happy Hour" and they served these mar-gar-itos which are quite good. I had four or five o' those. Then I had to drive me friend Mike home and of course I had to go in for a couple of Guinness. I couldn't be rude, ye know. Then I stopped on the way home to get another bottle for later .."

And the man fumbled around in his coat until he located his bottle of whiskey, which he held up for inspection. The officer sighed, and said, "Sir, I'm afraid I'll need you to step out of the car and take a breathalyzer test.

"Indignantly, the man said, "Why? Don't ye believe me?"

**Elephant Butte Island - NM005L**

by Byron Berger, KF8UN

I went into Truth or Consequences and made contact with a local ham, Robert-W5RAF through the Chamber of Commerce. I went to his QTH and had a nice visit. He said that he had lived there for 13 years and knew of no operations from Elephant Butte Island. He also came on the air the next day and helped. I spent the night camping in the nearby Black Range Mountains.

I was back at the Dam Site Marina by eight o'clock. It was getting close to 9 am and there was no sign of the goat feeders. Some of the marina staff said that Rick would be glad to give me a ride to the Island when he got there at about 9.

He was late as usual, but we loaded the boat and shoved off about 11 o'clock. As we cleared the marina, the boat engine suddenly quit. The tank had plenty of gas but there was nothing connecting the tank to the motor. Someone had stolen the fuel line.

I also worked more than half the "lower 48" states. For many it was their first New Mexico island and for AA5AT/m it finished his USI Worked All States Islands (WASI).

I put the dipole about ten feet above the station on a mesquite tree and set up my shack on the rocks in its shade. A backpacker's foam pad made my operating position complete.

Continued on p.5

## Universal Licensing System

"Frustration With the ULS"

by Judy McCune N8AIM

Back in June I got my first reminder to renew my license by Oct. 4, 1999. To renew electronically, all you need to do is fill out form 990, on line. Great! So I put the message away in my to do pile until Thursday, Sept. 9th. Then I got it out and followed the directions to get to form 990. There, I typed in my call and the message came up that I needed to go to the ULS site at [www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/](http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/).

OK. I went on to that site using the address given. At first glance, the site looked good. But where do I click to renew my license? Among the boxes at the left of the screen I found the 'TIN/Call Sign Registration' button. This was the closest thing to finding a renewal form. I had tried the search buttons, and sure enough, they had me in there. So I clicked on the button and registered, which you have to do before being able to do anything like renew a license.

This is an all purpose registration form. Several questions didn't seem to apply to me, but I got through it and successfully registered. Then I tried to renew my license. The first form I filled out turned out to be a form to search for my application to do whatever. That didn't work.

Then I found the 'On Line Filing' button (This button isn't always there). Access denied. Why? The answer is buried in the fine print. You have to connect to this site through a special 800 number in order to be able to access the 'On Line Filing'.

There is a button on the site which gives detailed information on how to connect through the number. I didn't pay much attention to this button

because I was already on the site. I gave up and the next day called the number they gave to ask for help.

Then I learned that you have to go through this 800 number. At that point I gave up, but my husband was more determined. He printed out the directions for the 800 number setup, and followed them. He didn't have any problems once he followed the directions, and I finally got registered.

**YOU CANNOT RENEW YOUR LICENSE OVER THE NORMAL WEB!** You MUST file through the special FCC phone line using the web only on this line. It only took us about 4 HOURS. So much for making things simple!

PS (Please add to my story.) On Sept. 10th, I renewed my license using the computer. On Sept. 20th, my new license arrived in the mail! Thanks,

Judy McCune N8AIM

■

### Elephant --- Cont from p 4

I still got sunburned from reflections off the water and had to make friends with the ants that would occasionally crawl on me. One had to lightly brush or blow them off so they would not alarm their cohorts nearby.

The ants became far less of a problem when I moved my eating area out into the desert sun.

The second day went smoothly and I went QRT at 22:50 after working W4BX/M. I took the antenna down and packed but left the operating station set up so Rick could take snapshots when he arrived. He was there

in due time and before getting his camera out he handed me a much appreciated cold one. He said the pictures would be put up on the bulletin board at the marina along with the pictures of the big fish and little bikinis.

I wish to thank Robert-W5RAF, Robert-WB0TVP and the staff of the Dam Site Marina, and in particular Rick Hart, for their valuable assistance. I hope to do it again next year with another island on Elephant Butte Lake.

73, Byron Berger- KF8UN  
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### About the Lake

The largest and most popular lake in New Mexico, Elephant Butte Lake State Park provides a setting for every imaginable water sport. The visitor center offers regional interpretive exhibits. The mild climate of the area make this park a popular year-round destination.

Although constructed to provide for irrigation and flood control, the lake is New Mexico's premier water recreation facility. A wide variety of water sports are available at the lake, with fishing being one of the most popular. The mild climate of the area make this park a popular year-round destination.

Over 100 million years ago, the area was part of a vast shallow ocean. Once the sea receded, the area was the favorite hunting ground of the tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur.



**Local Stuff****October Birthdays**

7 Wava G Schwartz	KC8CPD
7 Robert L Vega	W8AZ
8 Shirley R Rex	K8MZT
12 Denver R Frey	K8NIB
26 Gerald Ortman	W8UCW
26 Herb L Bushong	KA8MHV
27 Sarah B Shrigley	KC8ACW
30 Philip A Gizzi	W8IIV
30 Kenneth L Simpson	W8EK

**Area Nets**

**Akron:** 8:00:pm 145.??0  
Every Thursday

**Akron/CF:** 7:00 pm 147.??0  
Every Monday

**Alliance:** CW 8:00 pm 28.4  
SSB 8:30 pm 28.4  
VHF 9:00 pm 145.370  
Every Thursday

**ARES:** 7:00 pm 147.120  
Every Tuesday

**Astronomy:** 7:00 pm 147.180  
First Wed. each month

**CW:** 8:30 pm 28.090  
Every Tuesday

**Massillon:** 8:00 pm 147.180  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays

**New Phila:** 8:00 pm 146.730  
Every Monday

**QCWA:** 7:30 pm 147.180  
Every Thursday

**Sloppy Fist:** 9:00pm 28.138  
Every Mon thru Fri

**Stark County Mutual Aid:**  
CW, 11:00 28.150  
Packet, 11:00 145.070-S  
FM, 11:30 146.520-S  
SSB, 11:45 28.310  
Every Sunday

**Area Meetings****Radio Clubs**

**Akron:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs every month  
7:30 pm Goodyear Hall

**Alliance:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wed 7:30 pm  
Rear, Alliance Com. Hospital

**Canton:**

Third Wed 7:30 pm EOC Rte  
62 East. Trustees meet 7:00  
pm Monday of mtg week.

**Massillon:** First Friday 8:00 pm  
Senior Citizens Bldg Massillon

**New Phila:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
7:30 pm Farm & Fleet Bldg  
New Phila

**Other Clubs**

**Astronomy:** 7:30 pm, last Fri  
each month, Ad Building Stark  
County Wilderness Center,  
Wilmot, Ohio

**Computer:** 7:00 pm every 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Monday in the Stark State  
Auditorium.

**Photography:** 7:30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> &  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday monthly, Market  
Heights United Church of  
Christ, 3129 Market Ave., N.  
Alan Dolan, (330) 832-2491

**Hamfests**

**October 17 ... Ashland Area**  
**ARC/Fairgrounds, Ashland,**  
**OH 147.105**

**October 31. Massillon**  
**Stark County Fairgrounds.**  
**Tickets and table reservations.**

**Terry Russ N8ATZ**  
**(330) 837-3091**

**January 30, 2000, Dover, Ohio**

National Guard Armory, TUSCO  
ARC, Billy L Harper, KB8CQG  
(330) 484-4634 146.730

**Exam Dates  
and Locations**

**November 4** Akron Baptist  
Temple Fellowship Hall Ron  
Lieving AA8QX, (330) 724-  
5981

**November 7** Lagrange,  
Masonic Bldg. 103 South  
Center Rd. (Rts 301 & 303) Ola  
Slone (440)647-5116

**November 14** Independence  
Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Rd  
Gary Dewey (216)642-1399

**December 4** Wickliffe AE  
Supply, 28940 Euclid Ave.  
Scott Farnham (440)256-0320

**December 14** Lagrange,  
Masonic Bldg. 103 South  
Center Rd. (Rts 301 & 303) Ola  
Slone (440)647-5116

\* All Mansfield tests at Madison  
Senior Training Ctr Scott  
Yonally, KC8SS (419) 524-1105

**Special**

**January 16** A multi-county  
meeting will be held in the  
Pavillion at Tuscora Park,  
New Philadelphia, 2:00pm  
to 5:00pm. All Amateurs are  
invited to attend.

**You Are Invited To Join The Canton Amateur Radio Club.** We are an ARRL affiliated nonprofit organization funded by dues and private donations. Our mission is to serve our members and the community. To encourage goodwill and kindness among hams everywhere and promote friendship with other Amateur Radio Clubs in the area.

Name:	Call:	A) Sustaining Membership \$15 Licensed Amateur, full financial supporting with vote.
Address:		B) Full Membership \$10 Licensed Amateur, full membership with vote.
City:	State: Zip -	C) Associate Membership \$5 Feedline only
County:	Phone No.	D) Family Membership \$1 Same household of full or sustaining, no Feedline
First Licensed:		Remit to: Larry Parrish N8UXK 1812 Ferndale NW Canton OH
ARRL member? Y N		
License Class:	Exp date:	
Birthday:		
E-Mail:		
<b>Please use this form for renewals and applications.</b>		

### Fall Dinner Meeting

by Josh Robinson KC8GSK

**CARC will have a dinner meeting on October 20, 1999.**

We will conduct our regular meeting plus recognize club members efforts. Our dinner meeting will be held at Papa Bears on Dressler Road at 7:00 PM.

**A special  
family style meal**  
all you can eat spaghetti,  
salad, and a drink  
price \$6.75, plus tip.

We have committed 70 persons. Please call and RSVP yourself and significant other(s). This is a family event. Call Mike, KI0DE, or Josh, KC8GSK, at 478-3831 to reserve your spot. We will need your name, call, and total number attending. If no one is home, leave your RSVP on the answering machine. A phone number would help, should there be questions.

The CARC officers and trustees look forward to your attendance. Please RSVP early to help us plan the event.